

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 12-16 and 18-27, as amended, are present in this application. Claim 1 is above amended to make clear, as indicated at page 16, lines 6-17, that the compositions of this invention consist essentially of crosslinkable components and thus exclude more than minor insignificant amounts of non-crosslinkable polymers such as polypropylene. Claim 1 also now includes a free radical initiator as a third component (this component was previously set forth in Claim 2) and limits components (A) and (B) to the elected bismaleimides and sulfur accelerators. Allowable Claims 23-27 are now set forth as either claims dependent on new Claim 1 or as independent claims.

The rejection of Claims 1, 3-5, 13-16 and 19, as amended, under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Berta is traversed. As opposed to applicant, which claims compositions consisting essentially of crosslinkable components (and methods for making crosslinked, thermoset polymers), Berta concerns the making of thermoplastics using blends based on the non-crosslinkable polymer, polypropylene. Thus, Berta purposely makes his polymers only partially crosslinked by incorporating precisely controlled amounts of ethylene-containing polymers, which will crosslink, and of polypropylene, which will not. Applicant, however, uses only crosslinkable polymers because the intent is to form thermoset polymers which have a tack-free surface. Withdrawal of this rejection is accordingly submitted to be in order.

Withdrawal of the 35 USC 103(a) rejection of Claims 18 and 20-22, as amended, over Berta is likewise submitted to be in order, Berta clearly being directed to the art of thermoplastic rather than thermoset polymers.

Original Claims 1, 5, 7, 12 and 21 (now Claims 1, 5, 12 and 21), which were directed to compositions not containing a free radical initiator, were rejected over D'Sidocky et al. Since these claims have now been amended to include the presence of the initiator, withdrawal of these rejections is also submitted to be in order.

Claims 23-27 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were otherwise indicated to be allowable. Claim 26 is now presented in independent form and Claims 23-25 and 27 are now made to depend from revised Claim 1, which is submitted to

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be allowable for the reasons stated above. Withdrawal of the objections to these claims is accordingly submitted to be in order.

The other art which was cited, but not applied, also fails to teach or suggest applicant's invention.

Action on and allowance of Claims 1, 3-5, 12-16 and 18-27 at an early date is now respectfully requested.

No claims fee accompanies this amendment since no increase has been made in the number of total or independent claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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